



Did U Know?

A tail-ender making top score in a Test match is not that uncommon. But here are only 5 instances of a number 11 batsman being the top scorer in a Test match.



What to WATCH

DD National

India vs Zimbabwe
First ODI
Live at 9:30 am

ESPN

Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
7:00 am

Western Union World Football
10:00 am

English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Newcastle United
3:00 pm

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

World Cup Soccer Mix
9:00 pm

STAR Sports

Sportline Today
Sport News
8:00 am

English Premier Football League
Highlights at 8:30 am

&

Man United vs Derby County
1:00 pm

Sportline Tonight

Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

Australia vs South Africa
First ODI
Highlights at 11:00 pm




TALK TURKEY



Geoff Marsh

(Zimbabwe cricket coach)
"The game here is so big, so enormous and so many kids play it."
On cricket in India.



Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 167

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- Who won the U-19 cricket World Cup?
Australia South Africa New Zealand
- Who became African Nations Cup football champions?
Cameroon Senegal Ghana
- What was the result of the first ever Test series in Sharjah between Pakistan and West Indies?
1-0 2-01 - 1
- Who clinched the National junior chess title?
Jamaluddin Sagar
- Who won the Pan-Pacific Open tennis title?
Narasimha Selaes Kournikova

Class. Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Pabna soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Shikhharti Sports Institute defeated Ishwardy Brothers Union 1-0 in the AR Cement First Division Football League at the local stadium on Wednesday.

Biplob netted the match-winner.

Why Mohsin?

Cricket

LENIN GANI

Whenever Bangladesh Cricket Board takes pride in announcing the name of its national team coach somehow one is given the impression that he or she is following a mystery novel. The suspense that surrounds the real identity of the culprit remains until the final chapter is over. Until that time, however, the readers ponder over their own opinions about the person who committed the crime.

So it was a bolt from the blue when Board president Ali Asghar named former Pakistan Moshin Kamal as the Trevor Chappell's successor.

The Australian was hardly a popular choice after his appointment exactly a year ago. The former Sri Lankan fielding coach was never quite capable of motivating the players not withstanding the fact that he raised the fitness level to a reasonable standard.

Most of the time the 50-year-old was offering the media a variety of explanations when quizzed why the team was performing so poorly while evading questions on his own shortcomings. He made matters worse with remarks he made during the tour of New Zealand. While he was wholeheartedly taking care of the fielding aspect but in the same vein he was neglecting the batting and bowling departments.

But still we cannot entirely blame Chappell since at that time it was the Board's policy to focus mainly on fitness.

In fact, besides Chappell three of the previous foreign coaches Mudassar Nazar, Mohinder Amarnath and Gordon Greenidge - also had their share of problems.

Mudassar stint ended before it really took. A buttoned-up Mohinder was too big-headed for the Board's

liking. He did not even bother to return with the team after Kenya ICC Trophy debacle in 1994.

Gordon had a great start, winning the ICC Trophy in 1997. The Caribbean charmer fell out of favour for making some strong remarks on the existing set up and was forced to quit in the middle of the 1999 World Cup.

The only exception was Eddie Barlow. The visionary South African all-rounder put the Bangladesh cricket in the right frame, which helped the fledgling South Asian nation achieve Test status, until a



MOSHIN KAMAL

stroke out short his association.

But our problem lies somewhere else. The concept of relying on rookie coaches, the lack of communication skills on the part of the players and the Board's inability to facilitate a smooth process is dampening the spirit.

Asghar may be convinced that having an Asian coach is a solution since he will understand the players, but many feel sub-continental coaches due to their background are often guilty of encouraging egoism and a negative approach.

Another reason for not liking the idea is that first-class cricketers in our country are dead against professionalism. To them being a profes-

sional cricketer is the opportunity to gain financial benefits and nothing else.

And that is why world cricket is now being dominated by the Australians because their methods are the best in the business. An Australian will always promote mental toughness, discipline, teamwork, fitness, planning, everything that the rest lacks.

As personal preferences always seem to cloud our better judgement, a professional coach will never tolerate such behaviour. In his eyes all players whether they are the Sachins or Inzamams receive the same treatment.

The criterion for Moshin Kamal's appointment is a puzzle. As a player he had a limited career in both Test and one-day arena. All he has done so far is a bit of coaching and managed the Pakistan A team in the World Youth Cup held in Sri Lanka.

It is true that being a great player does not necessarily mean he will be an excellent coach. But it remains to be seen if Mohsin can work on specific two levels. One is the individual level, he has to be the friend, the helper, the taskmaster and sometimes the disciplinarian; in a nutshell being like a teacher.

The other thing is to get the culture of the team right, set the standards the coach wants, and focus on the goals from a team's perspective and an individual's perspective.

But the other face of the coin is that Pakistan cricket authorities have been desperately trying to hire a foreign national coach to succeed with the ready-made talent.

However, if Moshin Kamal can do all this he will make a difference and that will be the end of the argument. But at the moment it seems our Board president is suffering from a Pakistan obsession.

Games' soccer kicks off today

SPORTS REPORTER

The football competition of the seventh Bangladesh Games begins at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur this afternoon, four days before the grand opening next Monday.

Ten teams, split into three groups for the first round robin league, will take part in the competition.

Defending champions Dhaka University, Sylhet, and Bangladesh Air Force while Dhaka, the runners-up of the sixth edition held in 1996, have been pencilled in Group B along with Bangladesh Navy and Rajshahi.

The other group consists of Bangladesh Army, Police, Chittagong and Khulna.

Top teams from Group A and B and top two teams group Group C will qualify for the semifinals scheduled for March 15. The final will be held on March 17, a day before the Games formally ends.

Dhaka will take on Navy in the opening match at 3:15 pm while the second match between Dhaka University and Sylhet begins at 5:15 pm.

Nat'l Chess Zia back on track

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master (GM) Ziaur Rahman returned to winnings ways after a disappointing draw when he beat Syed Ejaz Hossain in the seventh round of the Professor Abdur Razzak 28th National Chess Championship on Wednesday.

Zia, playing with white pieces, made a Catalan opening against Ejaz and won the board after just 27 moves.

With that win, Zia remained atop the 12-player table having raised his tally to 6.5 points, half a point ahead of International Master (IM) Abdullah Al-Rakib, who is in the second position with 6 points. Yesterday, Rakib defeated Taybeur Rahman Sumon of BPATC.

In the other matches, Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib beat IM Reefat-bin-Sattar, GM Niaz Murshed beat Sawkat Hossain Pallab, Abu Sufian Shakil beat Saifuddin Lovlu and Sk Nasir Ahmed beat Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu.

Points after 7th round: 6.5 points- Zia, 6 points- Rakib 5 points- Rajib, 4.5 points-Niaz and Shakil, 3.5 points- Reefat and Nasir, 2.5 points- Shiplu, 2 points- Lovlu, 1.5 points- Ejaz and Sumon and .5 point- Pallab.

The eighth round will start from today at the same venue at 3pm. The games are: Ejaz v Nasir, Niaz v Shiplu, Reefat v Pallab, Lovlu v Rajib, Sumon v Shakil and Zia v Rakib.

Hockeyroos' moment of truth

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Field hockey's under-achievers Australia are determined to overcome the "chokers" tag when they take on reigning champions Holland in the World Cup semifinal here on Thursday.

Top contenders Germany appear set to win the other semifinal the same day as rivals South Korea race against time to field 11 fit men.

The Holland-Australia match is a repeat of the Olympic semifinal at Sydney two years ago when the Dutch ousted the hosts 5-4 in the tie-breaker after a 0-0 deadlock.

Worse, Australia were beaten by the Dutch at the same stage in the last two World Cups, losing 1-4 at home in Sydney in 1994 and 2-6 at Utrecht, Holland in 1998.

Australia's English coach Barry Dancer, however, brushed aside any concerns that his team tended to choke in crucial matches.

"What happened in the past is not important because this is a new team," said Dancer, who took over from Terry Walsh after the Olympics.

"We may not be the favourites, but all the pressure will be on the Dutch since they are defending the title."

Dutch coach Joost Bellaart said his team was geared to win their second successive World Cup to add to the gold medals in the last two Olympics.

"As far as I am concerned, a World Cup win is more important than an Olympic gold medal because the entire focus at the World Cup is on hockey," he said.

"Player to player, Holland has better individuals. If anything, only the physical prowess of the Australians may go in their favour."

Australia were the only team in the 16-nation tournament to emerge with seven straight wins in the league, but they were placed in the relatively easier Pool B.

Rajshahi lord over Sylhet

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Rajshahi wrestled full control over Sylhet on the first day of their four-day penultimate Ispahani National Cricket League match at the Rajshahi Stadium on Wednesday.

Electing to bat first after calling the coin correct, the guests soon found themselves in big trouble and were eventually out for a meagre 82 in only 35.3 overs. Having the job done with ruthless efficiency, Rajshahi then went on to score 116 for two before the stumps were drawn for the day.

Sylhet captain Syed Parvez became the first Rajshahi victim without even opening his account. The visitors then lost two more wickets in quick succession with the scoreboard reading only five.

However, it was middle-order Taqirul Hadi who played with some responsibility and scored 43 runs to earn some respect from the Rajshahi bowlers. But once Hadi was trapped leg before by Rajshahi's left arm spinner Mustadir Litu, Sylhet lost their last four wickets with the addition of another five runs to 77.

Mustadir and off-spinner Imran Parvez mesmerised the Sylhetis evenly sharing six wickets among them. Two pacers Aminul Islam junior and Abdullah Al-Mamun also chipped in with two wickets each.

Rajshahi opener Samiul Haque scored 35 while one-down Nuruzzaman was batting on 37.

Away in Barisal, the home side, deciding to bat, caved in for 172 in

the face of some fired-up bowling from Khulna pacer Al-Amin.

Al-Amin took five wickets for just 27 runs from 22 overs.

Middle-order Nayan Kumar, with 38, and lower-order Kamal Ahmed, with 35, were the notable run-getter for the home side.

Khulna, in their reply, were 67 for one at stumps.

Opener Raju Parvez was batting on 27 while his partner Salim scored 26.

SCORECARDS

Scoreboards on the first day of two Ispahani National Cricket League matches at different venues on Wednesday:

Sylhet v Rajshahi
Venue: Rajshahi Stadium.

SYLHET: First innings
Parvez c Samiul b Aminul jr 0
Mabud csamiul b Aminul jr 3
Mowla b Mamun 2
Hadi lbw b Mustadir 43
Rajin c Hasan b Mamun 8
Nasirul c Mahbub b Imran 4
Kapali c Anisur b Imran 13
Rana b Imran 0
Rezaul c Kalim b b Mustadir 0
Taposh b Mustadir 0
Imran not out 9
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-3) 9
Total: (All out in 35.3 overs) 82

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-5, 3-5, 4-32, 5-47, 6-77, 7-81, 8-82, 9-82.

Bowler O M R W
Aminul jr 10 3 17 2
Mamun 12 2 25 2
Imran 8 4 11 3
Mustadir 5.3 0 23 3

RAJSHAHI: First innings
Rafiquil lbw b Kapali 14
Samiul c Rezaul b Parvz 35
Nuruzzaman batting 37
Anisur batting 4
Extras: (b-8, lb-1, nb-3, w-14) 26
Total: (For 2 wickets in 52 overs) 116

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-110.

Bowler O M R W
Taposh 10 1 33 0
Rezaul 7 4 8 0
Kapali 9 4 19 1
Imran 9 3 23 0
Rana 9 5 10 0
Parvez 8 3 10 1

Barisal v Khulna
Venue: Barisal Stadium.

BARISAL: First innings
Imran b Al-Amin 11
Shafayet c Jamaluddin b Russel 1
Shahin b Razzak 24
Nayan lbw b Tushar 38
Sanwar c Shahriar b Al-Amin 13
Sourav c Taj b Al-Amin 1
Moin c Asadullah b Razzak 18
Kamal c Salim b Al-Amin 35
Saleh c Taj b Tushar 5
Anis b Al-Amin 11
Ashfaq not out 1
Extras: (b-9, lb-5) 14
Total: (All out in 59 overs) 172

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-12, 3-68, 4-90, 5-91, 6-106, 7-122, 8-127, 9-157.

Bowler O M R W
Al-Amin 22 12 27 5
Russel 7 2 24 1
Razzak 20 6 50 2
Jamaluddin 4 0 24 0
Shahriar 1 0 10 0
Tushar 3 0 15 2
Hasanuzzaman 2 0 5 0

KHULNA: First innings
Raju batting 27
Salim lbw b Kamal 26
Jamaluddin batting 10
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-1) 4
Total: (For 1 wicket in 31 overs) 67

Fall of wicket: 1-45.

Bowler O M R W
Anis 5 1 13 0
Ashfaq 6 2 12 0
Moin 2 0 6 0
Kamal 8 3 21 1
Saleh 7 2 7 0
Sanwar 3 1 5 0



Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (L) pondering over next move in his match against Syed Ejaz Hossain in the Prof Abdur Razzak 28th National Chess Championship on Wednesday.

Pak flounder on Day One

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Wily Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan snapped up four wickets as his side dominated the first day of the Asian Test championship final at Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday.

At close Sri Lanka were 94-1 with captain Sanath Jayasuriya batting on 47 and Kumar Sangakkara on 39. Earlier, Pakistan were dismissed for 234 with Muralitharan taking 4 for 55 and pacer Buddhika Fernando chipping in with 3 for 70.

The visitors looked in masterful form after winning their last eight home Tests and caught the home side napping on a lively track that assisted seam bowlers.

Sri Lanka got off to a sensational start when reliable opener Marvan Atapattu hooked the first delivery from Waqar Younis straight down the fine leg throat where Shoaib

Akhtar held an easy catch.

Jayasuriya and Sangakkara cruised along nicely after the early loss and hit 13 boundaries between them against a four-pronged Pakistan pace attack.

It was the first international match in Pakistan since the September 11 attacks on the United States but only 5,000 people turned up to watch the action dominated by the visitors.

Put into bat on a hard track with enough grass to help seamers, Pakistan's opening pair woes continued as both Taufiq Umer and Shahid Afridi returned with only 18 on the board.

Pakistan tried eight different opening combinations in their last 11 Tests in one year.

Umer failed to keep down a tentative push off Chaminda Vaas and was caught at short leg for six while Shahid Afridi failed to regain his crease after sent back by Younis Khan for nine.

Inzamamul Haq and Younis added 86 runs for the third wicket

and just when it seemed they would take Pakistan safely to lunch, Sri Lankan bowlers dealt two crucial blows a minute before the interval.

Younis, who hit a century against West Indies in Pakistan's last Test in Sharjah, hit two fours and a six off Muralitharan's third over but was bowled round his legs while attempting a sweep against the off-spinner.

Younis' 46 included eight boundaries and a six.

Inzamam's poor form continued when he edged Fernando to slip for 29 to leave Pakistan reeling at 108-4 at lunch.

Pakistan's most consistent batsman in the past two years, Inzamam scored a poor 183 in the last four Tests.

Another Pakistan mainstay, Yousuf Youhana went soon after lunch when he edged Buddhika Fernando to wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara for 6, leaving half the side back for a meagre 127.

All-rounder Abdul Razzaq tried to release the pressure hitting four boundaries in the process but he was adjudged leg before when he padded an incoming delivery from Vaas.

Pakistan's tail waged and added 87 for the last four wickets.

Wicketkeeper Rashid Latif, who made 36, was involved in two fighting stands of 30 with Shoaib Malik for seventh wicket and 40 with skipper Younis for the eighth wicket.

Muralitharan then snatched three wickets off 29 balls to wrap up Pakistan's innings, 45 minutes after tea.

The 21-year-old Fernando, playing his fifth Test, finished with 3-84.

Pakistan won the first Asian Test Championship beating Sri Lanka in the final at Dhaka, Bangladesh, by an innings and 175 runs in 1998-99.

Pakistan surprisingly left out